

### REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-37 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, claims 1-37 have been rejected. By the above amendments, claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-37 are currently pending.

#### **Double Patenting**

Within the Office Action, claims 1-37 have been provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-49 of co-pending Application No. 09/801,072, and with claims 1-96 of co-pending Application No. 09/801,138.

The amended independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 of the present application and the amended independent claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 41, 42, 43, and 47 of Application No. 09/801,072 vary in scope. Specifically, the amended independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 of the present application are directed to performing a search using a search module, where the search module includes four different types of search methodologies, performing the search on a searchable database formatted in a directory tree structure, and formatting a matching item from the search according to an encyclopedia-like entry. The amended independent claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 41, 42, 43, and 47 of Application No. 09/801,072 are directed to performing a search using a search module, where the search module includes four different types of search methodologies, until a research task is completed. Therefore, the amended independent claims within the present application and the amended independent claims within the Application No. 09/801,072 are not directed to the same invention.

The amended independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 of the present application and the amended independent claims 1, 15, 25, 39, 49, 63, 73, and 87 of Application No. 09/801,138 also vary in scope. Specifically, the amended independent claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 37 of the present application are directed to performing a search using a search module, where the search module includes **four** different types of search methodologies, performing the search on a searchable database formatted in a directory tree structure, and formatting a matching item from the search according to an encyclopedia-like entry. The amended independent claims 1, 15, 25, 39, 49, 63, 73, and 87 of Application No. 09/801,138 are directed to repeatedly performing a search using a search module, where the search module includes **three** different types of search methodologies,

until a research task is completed. Therefore, the amended independent claims within the present application and the amended independent claims within the Application No. 09/801,138 are not directed to the same invention.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

Claims 1-4, 7-14, 17-23, 26-33, 36, and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,098,066 issued to Snow et al. (hereafter "Snow").

Snow teaches formatting a searchable database into a tree structure of directories. Snow teaches categorizing documents, and then performing a keyword search by first specifying the category in which the keyword search is to be performed and then performing the keyword search within that category.

As acknowledged in the Office Action, the Snow reference applies to a selective one search methodology, a keyword search. However, Snow does not teach a search model that inclusively uses four different types of search methodologies including a keyword search, a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search. It is acknowledged in the Office Action that Snow does not teach at least the dichotomous key search.

By the above amendments, the independent claims are amended to clarify that the present invention includes a search module. The search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability. Any of these four search methodologies can be used to complete a research task, either independently or in any combination thereof.

Further, within the Office Action, it is stated that because the category of Snow includes documents, Snow must include text or graphics when displayed to users. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion. The Applicant contends that there is no support within Snow to reach such a conclusion. In column 8, lines 28-31 of Snow, it is stated that at step 114 (Figure 7 of Snow) information corresponding to each document is displayed by category, and that this information includes a synopsis and document link. In other words, text. Snow does not teach that the information is displayed in an encyclopedia-like entry. The encyclopedia-like entry of the present invention includes a graphics section, a text section, an internal links section, and an external links section (Specification, page 25, line 3 to page 26, line 3).

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of formatting information within a directory tree structure. The method of Claim 1 comprises the steps of performing a search by

utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, selecting one of the matching items, formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including four different types of search capabilities. Further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 2-4 and 7-10 depend on the independent claim 1. As described above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 2-4 and 7-10 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Amended independent claim 11 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of Claim 11 is configured to perform a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, to select one of the matching items, to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and to display the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including four different types of search capabilities. Further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 12-14 and 17-19 depend on the independent claim 11. As described above, the independent claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 12-14 and 17-19 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Amended independent claim 20 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of Claim 20 comprises means for performing a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, means for selecting one of the matching items, means for formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and means for displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including four different types of search capabilities. Further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 21-23 and 26-29 depend on the independent claim 20. As described above, the independent claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 21-23 and 26-29 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Amended independent claim 30 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of Claim 30 comprises one or more computer systems configured to communicate with other systems, and an organization server configured to couple to the one or more computer systems to perform a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, to select one of the matching items, to format the

collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and to display the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including four different types of search capabilities. Further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 31-33 and 36 depend on the independent claim 30. As described above, the independent claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 31-33 and 36 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Amended independent claim 37 is directed to a method of formatting information within a directory tree structure. The method of Claim 37 comprises the steps of performing a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, selecting one of the matching items, formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, wherein the encyclopedia-like entry includes text, graphics, links to related topics within the directory tree structure, links to related web sites external to the directory tree structure, or any combination thereof, and displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including four different types of search capabilities. Further, Snow does not teach formatting and displaying related data in an encyclopedia-like entry. For at least these reasons the independent claim 37 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

#### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 24, 25, 34, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snow in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,588 issued to Danish et al. (hereafter "Danish").

Claims 5 and 6 are dependent on the independent claim 1. Claims 15 and 16 are dependent on the independent claim 11. Claims 24 and 25 are dependent on the independent

claim 20. Claims 34 and 35 are dependent on the independent claim 30. As discussed above, the independent claims 1, 11, 20, and 30 are each allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 24, 25, 34, and 35 are all also each allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-37 are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he/she is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 530-9700.

Respectfully submitted,  
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